

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program

Appropriations Language

For wildlife conservation grants to States and to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and federally recognized Indian tribes under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, \$59,983,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to remain available until expended, and to be for conservation activities: Provided, That of the amount provided herein, \$5,000,000 is for a competitive grant program for Indian tribes not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: Provided further, That the Secretary shall, after deducting said \$5,000,000 and administrative expenses, apportion the amount provided herein in the following manner: (A) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof; and (B) to Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof: Provided further, That the Secretary shall apportion the remaining amount in the following manner: (A) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and (B) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States: Provided further, That the amounts apportioned under this paragraph shall be adjusted equitably so that no State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than 1 percent of the amount available for apportionment under this paragraph for any fiscal year or more than 5 percent of such amount: Provided further, That the Federal share of planning grants shall not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such projects and the Federal share of implementation grants shall not exceed 50 percent of the total costs of such projects: Provided further, That the non-Federal share of such projects may not be derived from Federal grant programs: Provided further, That no State, territory, or other jurisdiction shall receive a grant unless it has developed, or committed to develop by October 1, 2005, a comprehensive wildlife conservation plan, consistent with criteria established by the Secretary of the Interior, that considers the broad range of the State, territory, or other jurisdiction's wildlife and associated habitats, with appropriate priority placed on those species with the greatest conservation need and taking into consideration the relative level of funding available for the conservation of those species: Provided further, That any amount apportioned in 2004 to any State, territory, or other jurisdiction that remains unobligated as of September 30, 2005, shall be reapportioned, together with funds appropriated in 2006, in the manner provided herein.

Note: A regular 2003 appropriation for this account had not been enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, this account is operating under a continuing resolution (P.L. 107-229, as amended). The amounts included in 2003 in this budget reflect the Administration's 2003 policy proposals.

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992.

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-754). Establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661). The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, in minimizing damages from overabundant species, in providing public shooting and fishing areas, including easements across public lands for access thereto.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2004 Budget Request	Changes From 2003 (+/-)
State Wildlife Grants \$(000)	78,200	53,200			53,200	
Tribal Wildlife Grants \$(000)	5,000	5,000			5,000	
Administration \$(000) FTE	1,800 1	1,800 5		-17	1,783 5	-17
Rescission of Authority \$(000)	-25,000					
Reduction of Authority \$(000)	-200					
CAM (see General Business Operation Expenses)	[0]	[TBD]			[TBD]	
Total, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants \$(000) FTE	59,800 1	60,000 7	0	-17	59,983	-17

2004 Program Overview

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program provides financial assistance for development of wildlife conservation plans and on-the-ground conservation projects that implement existing or future planning efforts to stabilize, restore, enhance, and protect species and their habitats that are of conservation concern. The program focuses on projects that: (1) address the needs of species and their habitats most in need of conservation, (2) address species conservation needs that are most in need of funding, and (3) leverage federal funding through cost-sharing provisions.

The Service plans to continue this program in FY 2003 at a \$60-million level and requests \$60 million for FY 2004. In both years, \$5 million is reserved for the competitive Tribal grant program, and the remaining \$55 million supports the State program and administration (3 percent of the funds will be used for administration). The State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program supports the *Department's Draft End Outcome Goal to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters by helping to manage populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species.*

FY 2002 Program

The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2002 authorized an appropriation of \$85 million, however, it was offset with a rescission of \$25 million of funds appropriated to this account in FY 2001. The net effect after this rescission is \$60.0 million in new Budget Authority. The \$60 million will provide for wildlife conservation grants to States and to the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and Tribes for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished. The Act specifies that the States and territories will be apportioned their funds by formula, and the Tribes will participate in a separate, competitive grant program.

The Act further specifies that \$5 million of the funds will be used for the Tribal grant program, not subject to the provisions of the formula-based State program.

State Program: The grant funds going to the States, territories, and the District of Columbia are distributed by formula, to be apportioned as follows:

- The 50 States receive grants based on a formula that considers the area and population of each State. The formula is weighted basing one-third of the apportionment on area and two-thirds on population. No State is apportioned less than 1 percent of the total amount available for apportionment or more than 5 percent of the total available.
- The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are each apportioned an amount not more than one-half of 1 percent of the total available for apportionment.
- Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands are each apportioned an amount not to exceed one-fourth of 1 percent of the total available.

Prior to receiving funds, the State, territory, or other jurisdiction must develop or commit to developing by October 1, 2005, a comprehensive wildlife conservation plan, consistent with criteria established by the Secretary of the Interior. That plan must consider the broad range of the State, territory, or other jurisdiction's wildlife and associated habitats, and must set priority on those species with the greatest conservation need, and with consideration for the relative funding level currently available for the conservation of those species. The established criteria include factors such as:

- Information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife including low and declining populations as the State fish and wildlife agency deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of the State's wildlife.
- Descriptions of locations and relative condition of key habitats and community types essential to conservation of species identified in the first criterion.
- Descriptions of problems which may adversely affect species identified in the first criterion or their habitats, and priority research and survey efforts needed to identify factors which may assist in restoration and improved conservation of these species and habitats.
- Descriptions of conservation actions proposed to conserve the identified species and habitats and priorities for implementing such actions.
- Proposed plans for monitoring species identified in the first criterion and their habitats, for monitoring the effectiveness of the conservation actions proposed in the fourth criterion, and for adapting these conservation actions to respond appropriately to new information or changing conditions.
- Descriptions of procedures to review the State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan at intervals not to exceed ten years.
- Plans for coordinating the development, implementation, review, and revision of the State comprehensive wildlife conservation plan with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian Tribes that manage significant land and water areas within the State or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats.

Apportioned funds remain available for obligation by the state or territory in the federal fiscal year they are apportioned and in the next succeeding fiscal year. If funds are not obligated by the end of that succeeding fiscal year, they will be reapportioned to all states and territories in the third year.

The program provides reimbursement for up to 75 percent of eligible costs for planning grants and up to 50 percent of eligible costs for implementation grants. States must provide at least 25 percent of the project costs from non-Federal sources.

The Service developed and distributed implementation guidelines in May of 2002, and immediately began processing grants.

Examples of funded projects include:

- The reintroduction of the osprey by the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department. Prior to 1991, ospreys had not nested in South Dakota for over 100 years. The goal of the reintroduction initiative is to establish healthy numbers of osprey and ultimately remove them from the state's list of threatened species.
- The restoration of 100 degraded stream miles as well as conservation of 150 high quality stream miles by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. These efforts work to benefit Ohio's 81 threatened and endangered stream species and other fish and wildlife that are in and around such streams.
- The development of a plan for managing invasive species, and the initiation of an Arizona Invasive Species Council by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Invasive species are, or can be, a severe economic, ecological, and public health threat to Arizona.
- The restoration of sea otters, trumpeter swans, and endangered pygmy rabbits by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Research into the condition of the shortnose sturgeon by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. The project will determine the status, distribution, and movement of the shortnose sturgeon in the lower Delaware River.

Tribal Program: In addition to the apportioned funds to states, this program designates \$5 million for a competitive grant program for Federally recognized Indian Tribes. To implement this program, the Service published draft implementation guidance, inviting public comment, on December 27, 2002. The Service received 44 comments, mostly from Tribes, but also from Federal agencies, non-affiliated individuals, nonprofit organizations, and one law firm. Some respondents provided over 50 individual comments.

The Service is currently cataloguing and reviewing the comments and will develop responses to each. All will be evaluated for inclusion in final guidelines for the program. It plans to publish its responses to the comments, final program guidelines (including criteria for ranking the grant proposals), and a Request for Proposals this spring. This schedule should allow the Service to make its first Tribal grant awards by the end of FY 2003.

2003 Program

The Service requests a \$60 million program for FY 2003, equal to the base-level appropriation of FY 2002. The Service will continue the program as implemented in FY 2002, using the guidelines and award procedures developed that year. All State and territorial fish and wildlife agencies have established their eligibility for this program through written commitment to develop a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. As of January 31, 2003, the States and territories have obligated a total of \$22.4 million for grants that support their development and use of infrastructure and for on-the-ground projects for wildlife conservation. Both types of expenses are authorized by the appropriation authority.

Justification of Program Changes

Subactivity		2004 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (Administration)	\$(000) FTE	59,983 5	-17

The FY 2004 budget request for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants is \$59,983,000 and 5 FTE, a net program decrease of \$17,000 change from the FY 2003 request.

Information Technology Reduction (-\$17,000): The Department is undertaking significant information technology reforms to improve the management of IT investments, to improve the security of systems and information, and to realize short and long-term efficiencies and savings. The Department is taking a corporate approach that will include consolidated purchases of hardware and software, and the review of select IT functions including centralized help desks, email support, web services, centralized network management, and coordination of training. The Service estimates a savings of \$6.6 million by participating in these Departmental efforts.

In addition, the Service will also achieve an additional \$2.0 million in savings in other operational IT investment by centralizing management of geographic software, implementing desktop standards, consolidating the Service messaging platform, and other similar activities.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants' share of this reduction of \$17,000 reflects the anticipated savings from these cost cutting measures and reforms.

Relationship of Program Changes to Performance Goals

The Service has not yet developed performance measures for this program. Measures will be developed as part of the Service's operational plan. The Service is in the process of developing a new operational performance plan that directly aligns all program activities and objectives with the Secretary's four strategic plan mission components – Resource Protection, Resource Use, Recreation, and Serving Communities. The Service's operational plan will contain new long-term and annual performance goals and measures to guide the delivery of FWS program implementation, management reform, and budget formulation. The alignment and integration of program performance with budget formulation will provide the context for transparent accountability and the foundation for continual improvement. The Service anticipates completion of a new operational plan by September 2003.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program supports the Department's Draft Strategic Plan mission of Resource Protection and its outcome goal, *Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters*. Projects funded by this program accomplish this by helping States and Tribes manage populations of specific species to self-sustaining levels. Through these grants, the Service intends to sustain or increase the number of species that achieve biological community goals for game and sport fish and for non-game fauna and flora.

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS FUND

Program and Financing (in thousands of dollars)			
Identification code 14-1694-0	2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
00.01 State Wildlife Grants	15,402	76,900	90,000
00.02 Administration	169	520	536
00.03 Tribal Wildlife Grants	0	2,000	2,450
10.00 Total obligations	15,571	79,420	92,986
<u>Budgetary resources available for obligation:</u>			
21.40 Unobligated balance available, start of year	49,890	94,119	74,699
22.00 New Budget authority (gross)	59,800	60,000	59,983
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	109,690	154,119	134,682
23.95 New obligations (-)	-15,571	-79,420	-92,986
24.40 Unobligated balance available, end of year	94,119	74,699	41,696
<u>New budget authority (gross), detail:</u>			
Discretionary			
40.20 Appropriation (Special Fund) LWCF	85,000	60,000	59,983
40.36 Rescission of Authority [P.L. 107-63]	-25,000	0	0
40.76 Reduction pursuant to P.L. 107-206	-200	0	0
43.00 Appropriation (total discretionary)	59,800	60,000	59,983
<u>Change in unpaid obligations:</u>			
Unpaid obligations, start of year:			
72.40 Obligated balance, start of year	0	12,962	36,258
73.10 New obligations	15,571	79,420	92,986
73.20 Total outlays, gross (-)	-2,609	-56,124	-60,318
Unpaid obligations, end of year:			
74.40 Obligated balance, end of year	12,962	36,258	68,926
<u>Outlays, (gross) detail:</u>			
86.97 Outlays from new discretionary authority	0	20,000	20,000
86.98 Outlays from discretionary balances	2,609	36,124	40,318
87.00 Total outlays (gross)	2,609	56,124	60,318
<u>Net budget authority and outlays:</u>			
89.00 Budget authority	59,800	60,000	59,983
90.00 Outlays	2,609	56,124	60,318
Object classification (in thousands of dollars)			
<u>Direct obligations:</u>			
11.1 Full-time permanent	76	390	400
11.3 Other than full time permanent	2	2	2
11.9 Total personnel compensation	78	392	402
12.1 Civilian Benefits	24	90	93
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	22	25	26
25.2 Other services	9	9	10
31.0 Equipment	36	4	5
41.0 Grants, subsidies and contributions	15,402	79,028	92,584
99.9 Total obligations	15,571	79,548	93,120

STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

Standard Form 300

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS FUND**

Personnel Summary			
Direct:			
Total compensable work years:			
1001 Full-time equivalent employment	1	5	5
Average salary per FTE	78,000	78,400	80,400